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JAN 30 1948

"The Highest Quality Dahlia Roots Obtainable"

U.S. Department of Agriculture

DAHLIAS

for 1948

Eighteenth Annual Catalog



Prince of Orange

Grown by

MILLER DAHLIA FARMS
R. C. MILLER, Prop.

13055 24th Avenue South

Seattle 88, Wash.

Speaking of DAHLIAS . . .

It would be difficult indeed to name a flower returning more in colorful blooms over a long season for the time and expense invested in it, than the Dahlia. Through the centuries following its discovery by the Spaniards in Mexico the Dahlia has been of extreme interest to flower lovers and its development to the modern wonderful forms has been a labor of love with countless growers. It is one of the easiest of flowers to grow successfully, and the spectacular showing of colors from early summer until frost, makes the Dahlia plot a prized show place in thousands of gardens. Our customers report from every state in the U. S. A., their pleasure and satisfaction with their Dahlias.

Here on the Miller Dahlia Farms we grow Dahlias with one purpose, to produce the Dahlia stock which will be the best obtainable for our customers. With this in mind, the plants from planting to digging are grown for the strongest possible root development, and nothing is allowed to interfere with this objective. It is a fact that cutting blooms for the cut flower trade requires much foliage to be cut with the blooms thus weakening the roots, so no cut flowers are sold from our fields. It is also considered that over-propagating tends to weaken the stock, so all stock offered is grown from roots alone, and no cuttings or plants are used here. Many a highly advertised and beautiful variety has proved a disappointment in after years, and we believe, this was due to the weakening of the stock by the enormous number of cuttings taken from each root for the purpose of a speedy introduction of the variety, instead of waiting for the normal increase through root multiplication.

From the thousands of varieties now grown, we have tried to select for our customers those which will be representative as to type and colors, and which can be offered at reasonable prices. During the scarcity of Dahlias as well as most all other plant and nursery stock, we have not raised the prices of our stock as many did, and expect to continue to offer our customers at prices they can afford; **THE HIGHEST QUALITY DAHLIA ROOTS OBTAINABLE.**

POSSIBLE SHORTAGE OF STOCK

It is believed stock is in sufficient supply to fill all orders this year, however, if it seems necessary, the right is reserved to limit the number of roots of any variety to a customer. In case stock is sold out at time of receipt of an order a refund will be sent for the varieties unavailable at the time. Should a sizeable proportion of varieties become sold out before March, a supplement will be mailed to all on the mailing list, showing what varieties are on hand for further orders.



MUCH BEAUTY FOR A SMALL PRICE

ALAMEDA, CAL., JAN. 30, 1947—"I have been growing Dahlias for thirty years and have never contacted a grower who gave so much beauty for such a small price."—L. S.

BEST AND ALWAYS TRUE TO NAME

NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS, JAN. 29, 1947—"This is the 12th year I have bought your Dahlias and find them to be the best I have tried other places, but find Miller Dahlias to be true to name and what you say."—Mrs. D. P. D.

DESCRIPTIONS RIGHT

FRESNO, CAL., JAN. 17, 1947—"The roots that I received last year were everything you say they are. Your descriptions are very right. I am more than pleased."—Mrs. J. R.

CLASSIFICATION—Large varieties of Dahlias are classified for exhibition as "A"—those whose blooms grow 8 inches or more in diameter, and "B"—those whose blooms are more than 4 inches and less than 8 inches in diameter. MINIATURES are those under 4 inches and are distinct from the POMPONS in that the florets are of the same type as those of the large varieties. These varieties are divided into the descriptive sections as follows: the abbreviations used in this catalog being:

- Formal Decorative—F. D.
Informal Decorative—I. D.
Semi-Cactus—S. C.
Straight Cactus—St. Cac.
Incurved Cactus—Inc. Cac.

DESCRIPTIONS—Following the name of each variety here, the classification is first given, then the originator or introducer and the year the variety was first offered for sale. The size is indicated next—diameter X depth in inches of the bloom, then the height of the plant in feet. The length of the stem in inches from the first bud or leaf below the bloom is next.

Size and height may vary somewhat with different conditions of soil and culture. The descriptions given are for average blooms and plants as they grow here. Colors may vary somewhat with soil conditions, and occasionally a bloom may sport to some other shade. This is especially the case in Bi-colors, where often the plant will throw solid color blooms.

PRICES—are for single root divisions and include Parcel Post charges, packing, etc. The only additional charges are when a small shipment must be sent Express, due to danger of freezing in transit early in the season, or C. O. D. shipments.

©

VARIETIES OFFERED and RECOMMENDED

ADORABLE , I.D., (Angell, 1935,) 8x4-4½'. 11" stiff stems Blooms facing. Finard yellow with inner florets flesh pink.....	25c
ALL AMERICAN , S.C., (Salem D. G. 1940) 10x4—3'. 10" strong stems. Blooms facing, some sky-ward. Light carmine shaded orange. Florets somewhat twisted.....	75c
ALTMARK , S.C., (from Europe 1935), 8x4—3'. 12" wiry stems. Blooms facing. White centers, shading to lilac on outer florets. Very early and profuse. Good cut flower.....	25c
AMERICAN VICTORY , I. D., 10x5-4'. 17" stiff stems. Blooms perfectly facing. Poinsettia red. Pointed florets curled and slightly twisted. High full center.....	50c
ANDREA ERICSON , I. D., (F. & M. 1931), 9½x4-4'. 14" strong straight stems. Perfectly facing above the foliage. White with a creamy full center.....	25c
ARELDA LLOYD , I. D., (Smith 1936), 9x5-5'. stiff straight stems. Blooms skyward and facing. Clear yellow, with a slight rosy suffusion.....	25c

FINE DEPENDABLE STOCK

BURBANK, CAL., MARCH 1, 1947—"This is just a little note of appreciation for the fine stock you sent me. If it would not sound too artificial, I would say that you sent me the finest stock I have ever seen. You are certainly an honest grower of fine, dependable stock."—J. V. P.

MORE THAN PLEASED

AFTON, TENN., JAN. 20, 1947—I had some beautiful Dahlias last year, I have always been more than pleased with the bulbs I receive from you. The pleasure I received from 2 bulbs more than paid me for the price I had paid for all that I ordered."—Mrs. R. S.

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**"The Highest Quality Dahlia Roots Obtainable"**



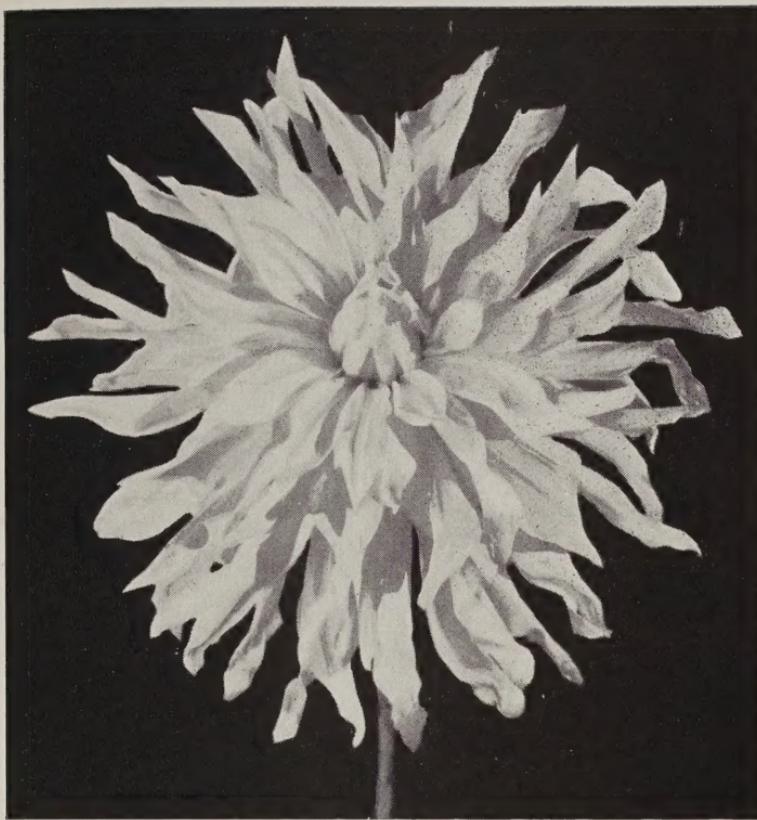
### Attractive

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>ATTRACTIVE</b> , I.D., (Miller Dahlia Farms 1947), 9x5—5½'. 10" strong stiff stems. Blooms all facing. Deep fushia pink. Long narrow florets, somewhat folded. Splendid branching habits. Dark foliage..... | \$1.00 |
| <b>AZURA</b> , I.D. (Ballay, 1936), 11x5—5'. 16" extra heavy straight stems. Blooms perfectly facing. A glowing shade of deep lilac. Long heavy florets, nicely curled. Thick leathery foliage .....           | 50¢    |
| <b>BAGDAD</b> , I. D., (Redfern 1930), 9½x4-5'. 10" stiff strong stems. Blooms mostly facing and well above foliage. Vivid scarlet .....                                                                       | 20c    |
| <b>BARBARA REDFERN</b> , I.D., (Redfern 1927), 8x4—4'. 8" strong stems. Blooms partly facing. Old gold blended with old rose, rose reverse. Somewhat twisted florets. Early.....                               | 15c    |

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**GUARANTEE**—Each root sent out is carefully inspected for soundness and eyes. They are guaranteed to be free of disease and to have one or more live eyes or sprouts, and to be true to name. In the remote case of a variety proving untrue to name a replacement will be made the following spring. Any root considered unsatisfactory by the customer will be replaced or a refund sent on its return within three (3) weeks of its receipt. As the Miller Dahlia Farms has no control over the conditions under which the roots are planted by the customer, no responsibility is assumed for any rotting or failure of the roots after they are planted or used for propagating cuttings. No further obligations than the amount paid for the root is assumed under this guarantee.

HAYWARD, CAL., JAN. 24, 1947—"I have had wonderful results from your stock and many compliments."—J. S.



Betty Hubbard

**BETTY HUBBARD**, S.C. (Armstrong 1939), 10x6—4½'. 10" stiff wiry stems. Perfectly facing. Clear deep yellow. Full bloom, high center, good keeper..... 50¢

**BLUE MOON**, I. D., (Eastern 1941), 10x5-5'. 15" stiff strong stems. Blooms perfectly facing. Lavender shading to lilac purple at base, giving a bluish effect. Long, heavy florets \$1.00

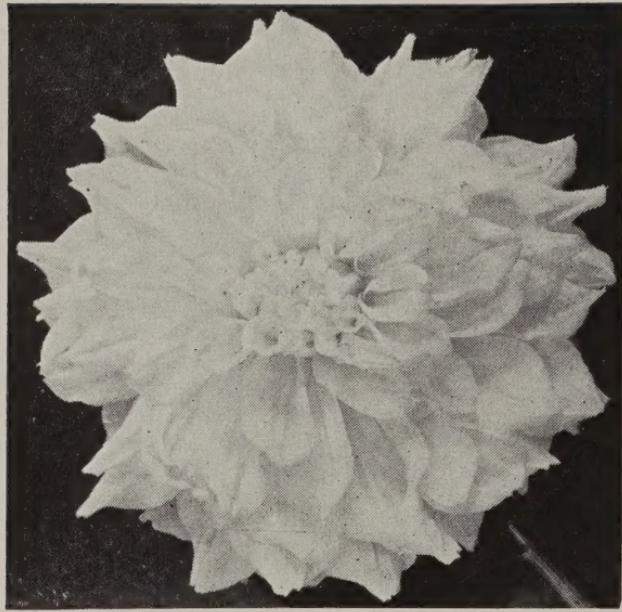
**BLUE RIVER**, F.D. (Salem D. G., 1935), 9x3—4½'. 10" stiff stems. Blooms facing. Bluish mauve, about as close to blue as any Dahlia can come. Long heavy florets in full bloom ..... 40¢

**BRIGHT EMBERS**, I.D. (Miller D. Farms, 1941), 8x4—4'. 12" straight strong stems. Blooms facing. Rose scarlet, with bright gold shadings at the base of the florets, giving the effect suggesting the name. Excellent substance therefore a splendid keeping flower when cut. Very profuse..... 40¢



Bright Embers

**“The Highest Quality Dahlia Roots Obtainable”**



Darcy Sainsbury

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>CARL G. DAHL</b> , I. D., (Hillcrest 1937), 10x4-4'. 14" strong stems. Blooms facing and skyward. Apricot buff shaded old rose .....                                                                                                    | 75c |
| <b>CHARLES L. MASTICK</b> , F.D. (Tyler, 1937), 9x5—4'. 12" straight strong stems. Bright orange with pink reverse. Full bloom, excellent cut flower.....                                                                                  | 35¢ |
| <b>CHAPPAQUA SUNSET</b> , S.C., 8x4—4'. 10" wiry stems. Blooms facing. Salmon pink with yellow and tan shadings. Narrow florets. Profuse.....                                                                                              | 30c |
| <b>DARCY SAINSBURY</b> , F.D. (from Australia, 1937), 9x5—4'. 14" strong, straight stems. Blooms facing well above the foliage. Creamy white. Long, heavy florets of good substance, good keeper. Still one of the outstanding whites..... | 40c |
| <b>DELIGHTFUL</b> , I. D., (Miller Dahlia Farms 1946), 10x6-4'. 16" strong stiff stems. Blooms skyward and facing. Light orchid, flushed white. Long pointed florets, full high center.....                                                | 85c |



Delightful



Dusky Rose

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>DUSKY ROSE, I. D.</b> , (Miller Dahlia Farms 1947), 7x4-4'.<br>15" stiff wiry stems. Blooms facing. Old rose shaded<br>apricot and tan. Gracefully twisted and folded florets<br>in an artistically formed bloom. Very profuse and a good<br>keeper .....                                                | <b>75c</b> |
| <b>EDWARD RINDFLEISCH, F. D.</b> , (Rindfleisch 1931), 9x6-5'.<br>12" strong stems. Blooms facing. Brilliant blood red with<br>bright yellow at base of florets. Full bloom.....                                                                                                                            | <b>25c</b> |
| <b>FIGARO, S.C.</b> , (from France 1940), 9½x4—5'. 10" straight stiff<br>stems. Blooms facing. A most attractive bi-color of yellow,<br>striped and splashed scarlet. A sport of Satan.....                                                                                                                 | <b>75c</b> |
| <b>FLAMBEAU, I.D.</b> , (Miller Dahlia Farms 1942), 9x4—3'. 8" stiff<br>straight stems. Blooms facing. Light scarlet, with bright<br>lemon yellow running from the base of each floret like a<br>tongue of fire. Florets somewhat twisted with curled edges.<br>Excellent substance, high full centers..... | <b>60c</b> |
| <b>FOREST FIRE, I. D.</b> , (Dahliadel 1935), 9x5-3½'. 6" stiff stems.<br>Blooms skyward and facing. Lemon yellow, shading from<br>base to rich scarlet at tips. Leathery foliage. Profuse.....                                                                                                             | <b>30c</b> |
| <b>FRANZ BERGER, St. Cact.</b> (from Europe 1935), 8x4-5'. 12"<br>wiry stiff stems. Blooms facing. Brick red.....                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>25c</b> |

FINE HEALTHY ROOTS

**TORRINGTON, WYO., FEB. 5, 1947**—"I am sending for my Dahlia roots, and hope it is not too late this time. I sent East for my Dahlia roots last spring and I got stung. I have always got what I ordered from you and they are fine healthy roots always."—Mrs. M. J.

**"The Highest Quality Dahlia Roots Obtainable"**



Flambeau

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>FRECKLES</b> , I.D., (Kemp 1936), 10x4½—4'. 14" straight stems.<br>Lemon yellow, striped and spotted peach red.....                                                                                                                      | 50¢ |
| <b>GOLDEN PLUME</b> , S. C., (Miller D. Farms 1937), 10x4-3'. 12"<br>stiff stems. Blooms facing. Clear light yellow.....                                                                                                                    | 15¢ |
| <b>GRAND SLAM</b> , S.C., (Hulin 1937), 10x4—4'. 10" stiff stems.<br>Blooms partly skyward and facing. Amaranth pink, yellow<br>centers. Narrow florets.....                                                                                | 50¢ |
| <b>GRENADE</b> , I.D., (Miller D. Farms 1945), 10x4—4½'. 18"<br>stiff stems. Blooms perfectly facing. Glowing crimson. Full<br>blooms of good substance. Florets have twisted tips.....                                                     | 85¢ |
| <b>GREY DAWN</b> , F. D., 8x5-4'. 12" stiff straight stems. Blooms<br>facing. White, suffused lavender at center of blooms. Ex-<br>ceptionally full bloom, good cut flower.....                                                             | 35¢ |
| <b>HARVEST DANCE</b> , I.D., (Miller D. Farms 1947), 8x5—3½'.<br>10" wiry stems. Blooms facing. Golden buff shaded light<br>scarlet. More or less variegated. Full bloom.....                                                               | 60¢ |
| <b>H. R. S.</b> , I.D. (Seal, 1932), 9x5—5'. 10" stiff stems. Blooms fac-<br>ing. Deep golden yellow, faint orchid shading. Long wavy<br>florets in a full bloom. Heavy bush, profuse.....                                                  | 30¢ |
| <b>HUNT'S VELVET WONDER</b> , I. D., (Hunt 1935), 10x6-4'. 10"<br>stiff stems. Blooms facing and skyward. Rosy magenta<br>shading to true purple. Heavy florets, full bloom. Pinch out<br>first bud to avoid crotch bloom. Good keeper..... | 25¢ |
| <b>INDIANA MOON</b> , I.D., (Martin, 1932), 9x4—5'. 10" strong stiff<br>stems. Blooms facing, some sky-ward. Cadmium orange and<br>old rose, suffused carmine. Narrow florets slightly twisted<br>and curled. Dark foliage.....             | 25¢ |

©

VISITORS ADMIREDA DAHLIA

**BELLE PLAINE, IOWA, JAN. 17, 1947**—"Here I am again ordering a few more, and a few I could not get last year. Volga River turned out to be a beautiful Dahlia, visitors that came to my place all admired it."—H. W. S.



Grenadier

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>IROQUOIS SUNBEAM</b> , I. D., (Toth 1934), 8x4-5'. 10" stiff wiry stems. Blooms facing. Orange buff, suffused coral.....                                                                                          | <b>15c</b> |
| <b>JANE COWL</b> , I. D., (Downs 1926), 9½x5-5'. 8" heavy stems. Blooms facing and sky-ward. Warm buff and gold, deep apricot shadings and center. Full bloom.....                                                   | <b>20c</b> |
| <b>JEAN HANN</b> , F. D., (from Australia 1935), 9x5-3½'. 12" stiff straight stems. Blooms facing. Bright golden orange. Full bloom, profuse and a good keeper.....                                                  | <b>25c</b> |
| <b>JEAN TRIMBEE</b> , S. C., (from Canada 1929), 10x5-5'. 10" straight stems. Blooms facing. Rich petunia violet with deep dusky purple shadings.....                                                                | <b>35c</b> |
| <b>JERSEY'S BEAUTY</b> , F. D., (Waite 1923), 7x4-5'. 14" strong stems. Blooms perfectly facing. Eosine pink.....                                                                                                    | <b>20c</b> |
| <b>JERSEYS DAINTY</b> , S.C. (Waite, 1934), 7½x4—4½'. 10" wiry straight stems. Blooms facing above the attractive foliage. Pure white, some early blooms slightly suffused lavender. Good cut flower, and early..... | <b>25¢</b> |

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#### LIKE HAPPY, WELL FED CHILDREN

**CARLSBAD, CAL., JULY 29, 1947**—"I have had, and still have such glorious blooms from your stock that I wanted to tell you about them. I doubt if Mayor Otis could be surpassed for size, and certainly not for coloring, tho Forest Fire tries to give it competition as to coloring, but not size. Anything you say about your Dahlias is a rank understatement, quote me as saying so: healthy and vigorous, they remind me of happy, well fed children, for to me they are people, I've had beauty and joy from every one of them.—Forgot to mention that I am expecting a lot from your seedlings, from that last packet of seeds, little plants fairly popped out of the flower pots I had them in." —Mrs. Jane Troxel.

**CHULA VISTA, CAL., JAN. 27, 1947**—"It is a pleasure to purchase stock from you as your bulbs are always O. K."—C. A. S.

**"The Highest Quality Dahlia Roots Obtainable"**



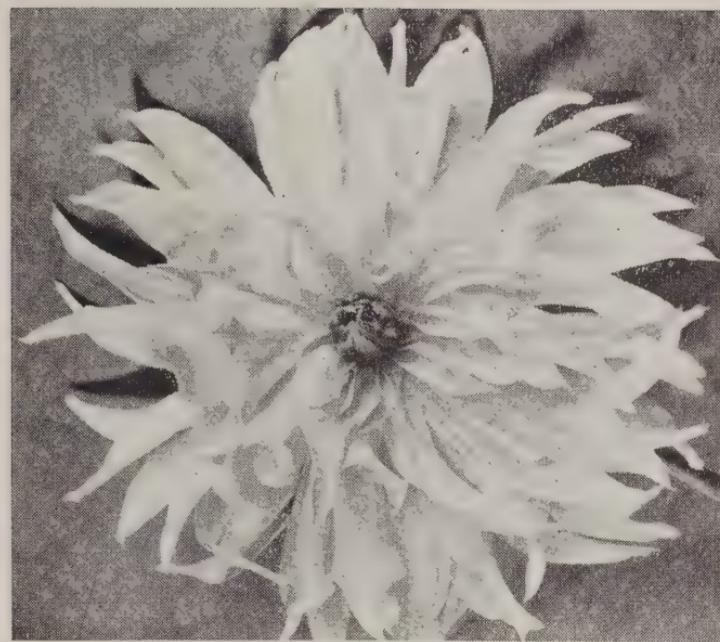
Katie K.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>KATHLEEN NORRIS</b> , I. D., (F & M 1929), 10x5-4'. 14" heavy stems. Blooms usually facing. Bright rose pink with lighter shadings .....                                                                                    | <b>25c</b>    |
| <b>KATIE K.</b> , I. D., (Lakeside 1938), 10x4-3½'. 18" straight strong stems. Blooms facing. Violet rose, lighter shadings. Full blooms with excellent substance.....                                                         | <b>85c</b>    |
| <b>KENTUCKY SUN</b> , F.D. (White, 1933), 8x5—4'. 12" strong, straight stems. Blooms perfectly facing. Clear lemon yellow. Very symmetrical florets of good substance, and produces quantities of splendid keeping blooms..... | <b>15c</b>    |
| <b>LA DOSKA DOWD</b> , I. D., (Western 1926), 7½x4-4½'. 12" wiry stiff stems. Blooms facing. Deep yellow with a touch of rose pink on the outer florets. Narrow curved florets.....                                            | <b>15c</b>    |
| <b>LADY MOYRA PONSONBY</b> , I.D., (from England 1935), 10x5—4'. 14" strong straight stems. Blooms perfectly facing. Light yellow. Full blooms, heavy bush growth.....                                                         | <b>30c</b>    |
| <b>LE MOYNE STRATTON</b> , F. D., (Miller D. Farms 1941), 8x5-4'. 8" strong stiff stems. Blooms facing. A soft shade of light apricot, or champagne, deeper center. Full bloom with florets of excellent substance.....        | <b>35c</b>    |
| <b>LUCKY</b> , St.Cact., (Schutte 1945), 7x4—4½'. 10" wiry stiff stems. Light red. Extremely early and profuse. Have counted 35 perfect blooms on a plant at one time. Unexcelled as a florist's Dahlia.....                   | <b>\$1.00</b> |
| <b>LUSCIOUS</b> , F. D., (Miller D. Farms 1946), 10x5-3'. 14" strong stems. Blooms facing. Light apricot buff, leathery foliage.....                                                                                           | <b>60c</b>    |

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**NORFOLK, VA., MARCH 3, 1947**—"My Dahlias last season were beautiful. Would like to add a few others."—Mrs. O. E.

**SANTA ANA, CAL., JAN. 17, 1947**—"Want the tubers checked to go to my mother. I have always enjoyed your tubers so much I know my mother will."—Mrs. G. L. T.



Mrs. Ella Worthen

|                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <b>MAN O'WAR</b> , I. D., (Ruschmohr 1934), 9x4-5'. 12"        | strong stems.<br>Blooms facing above bush. Rich deep velvety red. Early<br>and profuse. Some imperfect centers.....                                                                                                                                       | 25c  |
| <b>MARGRACE</b> , I. D., (Bissell 1936), 9x5-4'. 14"           | straight stems.<br>Blooms facing. Bright cardinal red with tan reverse. Full<br>bloom .....                                                                                                                                                               | 35c  |
| <b>MARSHALL'S PINK</b> , F. D., 7x4-5'. 15"                    | straight wiry stems.<br>Pure light pink. Good cut flower.....                                                                                                                                                                                             | 20c  |
| <b>MAYOR FRANK OTIS</b> , I. D., (Salbach 1939), 11x5-4'. 15"  | straight strong stems. Blooms facing. Golden yellow shaded<br>bronze. Gracefully twisted and curled florets. Has been<br>grown to 17 inches.....                                                                                                          | 75c  |
| <b>M. KOL</b> , I. D., 7x4-3'. 10"                             | wiry stems. Blooms facing. Bright<br>orange shaded light yellow, with each floret tipped white.<br>Early and profuse. Some variegated.....                                                                                                                | 25c  |
| <b>MONARCH OF EAST</b> , F. D., (Almy 1929), 10x5-4'. 12"      | strong<br>stiff stems. Blooms facing and skyward. Rich golden yel-<br>low, light red reverse. Heavy massive blooms.....                                                                                                                                   | 60c  |
| <b>MOTHER O'MINE</b> , I.D. (Moss 1940) 10x5—3'                | 10" stiff strong<br>stems. Blooms facing and skyward. Peach pink suffused and<br>shaded gold. Full bloom, high center.....                                                                                                                                | 1.00 |
| <b>MRS. A. WARD</b> , F. D. (from Australia 1935), 9x4-4'. 12" | straight stems. Blooms facing. Blended old gold and salmon,<br>darker center. Broad florets, full bloom.....                                                                                                                                              | 25c  |
| <b>MRS. E. BRADLEY</b> , Inc. Cactus, 7x3-3½'.                 | 9" wiry stiff stems.<br>Blooms perfectly facing. White. Narrow florets of good sub-<br>stance. Light foliage. Profuse and early.....                                                                                                                      | 40c  |
| <b>MRS. E. HOWELL</b> , I.D., 9x3—3'.                          | 10" strong stems. Blooms<br>facing and sky-ward. Crimson rose, golden base of florets....                                                                                                                                                                 | 40c  |
| <b>MRS. ELLA WORTHEN</b> , S.C. (Garrity, 1933), 10x4—5½'.     | 15"<br>stiff straight stems. Blooms facing. Salmon pink with yel-<br>low shadings. Long graceful florets, with unusual high<br>centers. A little late, but its large beautiful blooms excite<br>universal admiration for its grace and color shading..... | 25¢  |



#### FOOT HIGH PLANTS MOVED SUCCESSFULLY

FRESNO, CAL., JAN. 24, 1947—"The address is changed from that of the past two years that I have bought Dahlias from you. I had to dig my Dahlias when they were about a foot tall, and in spite of that I really had some beauties.—Mrs. W. G.

“The Highest Quality Dahlia Roots Obtainable”



### Mrs. George le Boutellier

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>MRS. GEORGE LE BOUTELLIER</b> , I.D. Ruschmohr, 1935), 10x5—3½'. 15" heavy stems. Blooms normally facing, but sometimes too heavy growth will cause drooping. Deep carmine red, a brilliant rich color on a most spectacular bloom. Leathery foliage, dark stems.....   | <b>20¢</b> |
| <b>MRS. HERBERT O'CONNOR</b> , St. Cact., (Dahliadel 1936), 8x4—4'. 15" wiry stiff stems. Blooms all facing. Bright rose pink shading deeper at center. Profuse, good keeper.....                                                                                          | <b>50¢</b> |
| <b>OAKLEIGH MONARCH</b> , I.D. (Oakleigh, 1936), 9x6—3½'. 10" heavy straight stems. Blooms perfectly facing and uniform in size and form. Brilliant clear carmine red. The florets are wide and heavy making a full bloom. Cert. of Merit.....                             | <b>30¢</b> |
| <b>OPALESCENT</b> , I. D., (Miller D. Farms 1940), 10x7x6'. 15" straight stems. Blooms sky-ward and partly facing. Chrome yellow shading to pinard yellow, flesh color and carrot red on outer florets, reverse streaked Alarizine pink, old rose and yellow. Profuse..... | <b>60¢</b> |
| <b>PALE MOON</b> , F.D., (Miller Dahlia Farms 1941), 6x4—5'. 8" stiff stems. Blooms facing. Soft light yellow, unshaded. Early and most profuse. Splendid variety for cut flower work .....                                                                                | <b>25¢</b> |
| <b>PASSION</b> , F. D., (Miller D. Farms 1946), 9x4-3'. 15" stiff strong stems. Blooms facing. Rich deep velvety red. Broad florets of excellent substance.....                                                                                                            | <b>75¢</b> |
| <b>PATTY WAUGH</b> , F.D., 6x3—4'. Stiff wiry stems. Blooms perfectly facing. White. Profuse, early and a splendid cut flower .....                                                                                                                                        | <b>40¢</b> |

P

### GREW SO RAPIDLY

**WOODLAND, WASH.**, JAN. 7, 1947—"I'd just like to tell you how pleased I was with your tubers. I've never bought tubers that were so firm and grew so rapidly. And you sell them so reasonable. The flowers were superb. This year I am ordering more and wish I had room for every one in the catalog."—Mrs. A. O. S.

### A JOY TO ALL

**PACIFIC BEACH, CAL.**, JAN. 20, 1947—"Your Dahlias have always come to more than my expectations and have been a joy to all who come to my garden."—Mrs. F. T. S.

**LOS ANGELES, 35, CAL.**, FEB. 14, 1947—"I have had the best of luck with your bulbs."—J. J. B.

**THE PRICES AND OFFERINGS** in this catalog cancel all previous prices and listings. There is no stock available not listed herein.



### Passion

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>PEACH BLUSH</b> , I.D. (Miller Dahlia Farms, 1940), 9x5—4½'.<br>12" strong straight stems. Golden cream, overlaid and<br>shaded with light carmine. Full bloom.....                                                                                                                                       | \$1.40c           |
| <b>POINSETTA</b> , S. C., (Rindfleisch 1931), 9x5-4'. 12" wiry stems.<br>Blooms well out of bush, some facing, some skyward, some<br>dipped. Pure unshaded nopal red, attractive dark foliage.<br>Early .....                                                                                                | 15c               |
| <b>POLLY PRIM</b> , F.D., 6x4—4'. 12" wiry stems. Blooms facing.<br>Light pink, shading to salmon pink at center.....                                                                                                                                                                                        | 40c               |
| <b>PRINCE OF ORANGE</b> , I.D., (Miller D. Farms 1947), 9x5—5'.<br>15" stems. Blooms dip slightly. Brilliant burnt orange,<br>bright gold shadings. Gracefully curled florets folding back<br>to the stem. Very full bloom. The dazzling color and<br>massive bloom makes this a most attractive Dahlia..... | \$1.50            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | (See front cover) |
| <b>PRINCE OF PERSIA</b> , I.D. (Newsom, 1931), 9½x6—4' 10"<br>wiry stems. Blooms facing. Beautiful lively shade of<br>bright red which stands the hottest sun without fading or<br>burning. Graceful heavy florets, and a high center, one of<br>the most eye-filling giants in the red class.....           | 15c               |
| <b>PRUDENCE PENNY</b> , I. D., 6x4-5'. 10" stiff wiry stems. Blooms<br>perfectly facing. Blended old gold and apricot. Can be de-<br>scribed as a miniature Jane Cowl.....                                                                                                                                   | 25c               |
| <b>QUEEN CITY</b> , F. D., (Golden Rule 1936), 7x4-4'. 15" stiff<br>stems. Blooms facing. Soft scarlet pink. Early, profuse and<br>a good cut flower.....                                                                                                                                                    | 25c               |

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### LOVELY DAHLIAS

**BAKER, ORE.**, FEB. 20, 1947—"My Dahlias were lovely  
last year, the ones I purchased from you."—Mrs. R. H. M.

**GRASS VALLEY, CAL.**, FEB. 1, 1947—"In regard to the  
10 per cent. discount, I have most all your listed Dahlias. If  
you have some others than listed in the 50c price please send  
2. I have had truly beautiful Dahlias from you."—Mrs. F. F.

**FRIONA, TEXAS**, JAN. 27, 1947—"I have had good success  
with your Dahlia roots, and am looking forward to nice blooms  
this year."—Mrs. V. R. J.

**"The Highest Quality Dahlia Roots Obtainable"**



Red Rocket

|                                                                                                                                                  |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>RED GUARD</b> , I. D., (Miller D. Farms 1941), 10x5-5'. 14"                                                                                   |        |
| straight stiff stems. Blooms facing. Bright red. Heavy florets, massive blooms. Many 12 and 14 inch blooms.....                                  | 60c    |
| <b>RED ROCKET</b> , F. D., (Miller D. Farms 1943), 8x4-5'. 10"                                                                                   |        |
| stiff stems. Blooms all facing. Brilliant unfading scarlet. Florets slightly curled.....                                                         | 75c    |
| <b>REGENT</b> , Inc.Cact., 8x4—5'. 10" wiry stiff stems. Blooms fac-                                                                             |        |
| ing. Heliotrope pink with touches of gold at base of floret. Very early and profuse.....                                                         | 20¢    |
| <b>RENATE MULLER</b> , Inc.Cact., (from Europe), 7x4—4'. 8" wiry                                                                                 |        |
| stems. Blooms facing. Light orchid pink with creamy white base. A slight tracing of orchid edging each floret. Splendid for cut flower work..... | 25¢    |
| <b>RHYTHM</b> , In. Cactus or S. C., (Dahliadel 1943), 8x5-4'. 12"                                                                               |        |
| stiff strong stems. Blooms facing and some skyward. Cameo pink suffused rose, lemon shading at center. Very full and a profuse bloomer.....      | \$2.00 |

•

#### LOTS OF COMPLIMENTS

**KRESS, TEXAS, JAN. 30, 1947**—"Have ordered Dahlias from you for eight years, and would like to say I am well pleased. I get lots of compliments on my Dahlia garden.—Mrs. V. J. E.

#### DAHLIAS MAKE A SHOW PLACE

**THATCHER, ARIZ., JAN., 28, 1947**—"Thanks very much for sending me the nice extras and substitutions last year. You've been most generous and I certainly enjoy doing business with you. My Dahlia bed is the show place of the valley during the summer."—Mrs. G. F.



### Sand Dune

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>ROCKLEY MOON, F. D.,</b> (Ruschmohr 1934), 8x4-4'. 10" stiff strong stems. Blooms facing. Lemon yellow with faint purple tint at center and on reverse. Full blooms.....                                                  | 20c |
| <b>ROUGE BOUQUET, S.C.,</b> 8x4—4'. 10" straight stiff stems. Blooms skyward and partly skyward. Bright red shaded yellow. Heavy bush growth.....                                                                            | 50¢ |
| <b>RUBY TAYLOR, I. D.,</b> (Garrity 1933), 8x4-4'. 10" stiff stems. Blooms facing. Deep velvety crimson.....                                                                                                                 | 25c |
| <b>SAGAMORE BEAUTY, F.D.,</b> (Shattuck 1929), 7x3—3'. 10" stiff wiry stems. Blooms facing. Rich true pink, with cream center. Early and profuse, and can hardly be equalled for Cut flowers. Heavy bush growth.....         | 20c |
| <b>SALMON KING, F. D.,</b> (Miller D. Farms 1945), 9x5-4'. 15" strong stiff stems. Blooms facing. Glowing salmon buff, deeper shading at centers. Broad heavy florets of good substance .....                                | 50c |
| <b>SAND DUNE, F. D.,</b> (Miller Dahlia Farms 1946), 9x4-4'. 12" stiff stems. Blooms perfectly facing. Buff orange with shadings and pencilling of peach red, light red reverse. Broad cupped florets of good substance..... | 50c |

P

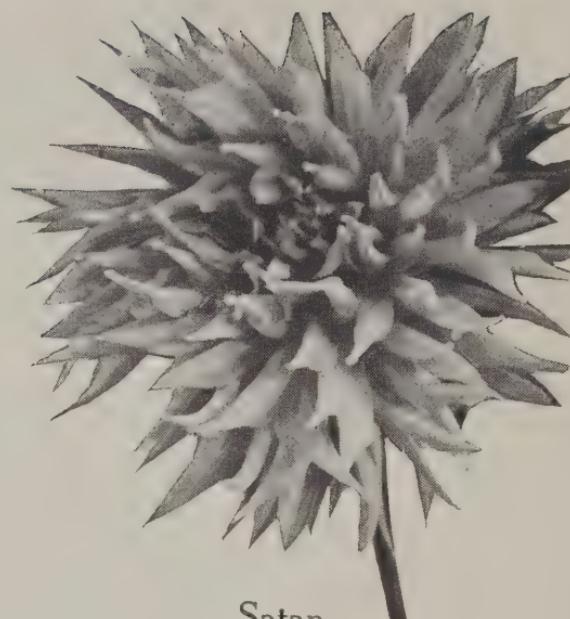
### A REAL SHOW GARDEN

**GREENVILLE, ILL., JAN. 20, 1947**—"Dahlia roots O. K. last spring which I bought of you, had a real show garden, many sight-seers."—J. W. W.

### HIGHLY PLEASED

**LOS BANOS, CAL., MARCH 1, 1947**—"I consider your Dahlia stock the finest obtainable, and am happy to say that I have been highly pleased with the results."—Mrs. H. V. S.

**"The Highest Quality Dahlia Roots Obtainable"**

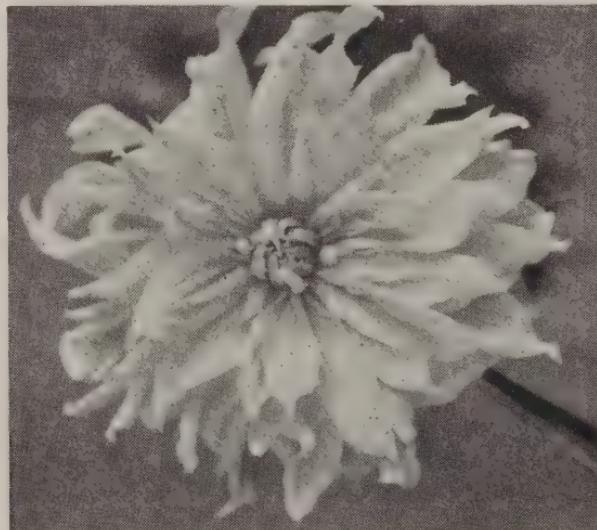


Satam

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>SATAN</b> , S.C. (Ballay, 1932), 9½x5—5'. 16" heavy straight stems. Blooms perfectly erect and facing. Rich scarlet with creamy reverse showing at the center and on the ends of the florets, which are horn-shaped. Has been grown to 16 inches. Cert. of Merit..... | 20¢    |
| <b>SMOKE DREAMS</b> , I.D., (Miller Dahlia Farms 1947) 9x4—4½'. 15" strong straight stems. Blooms facing. Delicate rose pink flushed creamy yellow. A graceful bloom.....                                                                                                | \$1.00 |
| <b>SNOWBOUND</b> , F.D., (Miller D. F. 1947), 8x3—4'. 12" stiff stems. Perfectly facing. Pure white, florets of very good substance .....                                                                                                                                | 75¢    |
| <b>SNOW PILLOW</b> , I. D., (Miller D. Farms 1946), 11x5-5'. 12" stiff strong stems. Blooms facing. White, Broad, heavy and pointed florets, gracefully curled. Good branching habits, allowing 3 ft. stems. Have cut 14" blooms.....                                    | \$1.00 |
| <b>SOPHISTICATE</b> , I.D. (Miller D. Farms, 1941), 9½x5—5'. 10" strong, graceful stems. Blooms facing. Amaranth pink with lighter shadings. Excellent keeper, and very profuse. Vigorous bush growth. Occasional open center.....                                       | 35¢    |

## PRIZE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD

**TACOMA, WASH., FEB. 21, 1947**—“Last year I ordered some Dahlias from you and they were the prize of the neighborhood, just gorgeous, tall and large. Also ordered some from another place that were terrible. Throwing them away this year.”—Mrs. A. L. S.



## Sophisticated



Snow Pillow

**SPRINGTIME, I.D.**, (Miller D. Farms 1944), 7x3—4'. 9" stiff wiry stems. Blooms perfectly facing. Unusual combination of light peach pink shaded cream, with bright yellow central florets. Very early and profuse, and a splendid keeper ..... 50c

**SULTAN OF HILLCREST, F. D.**, (Scott 1933), 9x5-3'. 12" heavy straight stems. Blooms facing. Yellow, with faint touches of rose, and rose reverse. Full bloom..... 35c



Springtime

**"The Highest Quality Dahlia Roots Obtainable"**



### Willie B. Hill

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>THE COMMODORE</b> , I. D., (Kept 1932), 10x6-3½' 12" strong stems. Blooms facing. Solid unshaded yellow. Profuse.....                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>10c</b>    |
| <b>TOWERS EMPIRE</b> , I.D., (Parella 1935), 9½x6—5½'. 10" straight strong stems. Blooms skyward and facing. Very bright golden yellow slightly tinged delicate rose at center. Long heavy florets in a heavy bloom.....                                                                                               | <b>50¢</b>    |
| <b>VOLGA RIVER</b> , I.D., (Feldman 1942), 10x5—4'. 15" straight strong stems. Perfectly facing. Bright scarlet with lemon yellow center and stripes running up into the florets. Full massive bloom. Early and profuse.....                                                                                           | <b>60¢</b>    |
| <b>WANDA MILLER</b> , F. D., 7x4-4'. 12" stiff wiry stems. Blooms facing. Violet tipped white.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>25c</b>    |
| <b>WARRIOR</b> , F. D., (Miller D. Farms 1946), 9x4-4'. 16" stiff stems. Blooms perfectly facing. Bright scarlet. Broad florets somewhat twisted.....                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>75c</b>    |
| <b>WHITE GOLD</b> , F.D., (Miller D. Farms 1944), 8x4—3½'. 15" straight stiff stems. Blooms facing. Rich creamy white or very light yellow. A full bloom, with good keeping qualities and profuse.....                                                                                                                 | <b>50c</b>    |
| <b>WILLIE B. HILL</b> , S.C., (Miller D. Farms 1945), 10x3—3'. 10" straight stiff stems. Blooms skyward and partly skyward. Light glowing crimson. Full high centers. The unusual lacy attractive foliage with the large delicately colored and formed blooms make this variety a "must have" with all who see it..... | <b>\$2.00</b> |

### STOCK VERY SATISFACTORY

**BEAUMONT, TEXAS, JAN. 22, 1947**—"Our climate is not the best for Dahlias on account of heat and humidity. Country has 80 inches of rainfall. I have purchased from you for several years, and your stock is very satisfactory."—C. S. S.

### NOTHING LIKE THEM

**PATTERSON, CAL., FEB. 19, 1947**—"I have had wonderful success with bulbs that I have bought from you in the past. Have never had Dahlias like those raised from your bulbs. Thanks so much."—A. W. H.



### Winter Wonderland

|                                                                                                                                                                                                             |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>WINTER WONDERLAND, I.D.</b> , (Miller D. Farms 1947),<br>8x4—3'. 8" stiff stems. Blooms perfectly facing. Creamy<br>white with slight overcast of pink. Profuse and early, and<br>a splendid keeper..... | \$1.00 |
| <b>WISTERIA, F. D.</b> , (Miller D. Farms 1945), 9x5-4'. 16" stiff<br>stems. Blooms facing. Clear deep orchid. Full blooms,<br>good substance.....                                                          | 40c    |
| <b>YOUR LUCKY STAR, S. C.</b> , (Amer. D. Farms 1939), 9x4-4'.<br>12" straight strong stems. Blooms facing. Amaranth pink,<br>central florets white. High centers. Profuse and a good cut<br>flower .....   | 50c    |

### REGARDING DATE OF SHIPMENT

Roots may be ordered at any time and will be shipped at any date desired by the customer. However, it is advisable to have them sent not too long before the time for planting, as no Dahlia grower can be responsible for any loss which may occur on account of spoiling or drying out of roots which are in the customers' hands for a month or so before planting. And where early orders are used for forcing for the purpose of making cuttings to plant, there is no guarantee against rotting of the roots in this process. In sections where the spring is backward and the ground is still cold and wet in May, it is advised to keep the roots in the peat moss in which they are packed, and they will sprout nicely with hardly any attention, so when the ground is warmed up the new plant will have a better start than if it had been put in the ground earlier. Parcel post charges are all paid by me, and express charges on large shipments, but where small orders are wanted sent during weather when freezing might occur in transit, the shipment will be made express, charges collect.

**"The Highest Quality Dahlia Roots Obtainable"**



A Group of Miniature Dahlias

### MINIATURE DAHLIAS

|                                                                                                                                                      |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>BABY ROYAL</b> , Min. S. C., Salmon pink, mostly open centers....                                                                                 | <b>20c</b> |
| <b>BARBARA DOANE</b> , S.C., Light pink, lighter shadings and center. Low bush.....                                                                  | <b>25¢</b> |
| <b>CARLOTTA</b> , Min. F.D., Light carmine red, narrow folded florets, each daintily notched at end. Good stems, tall, and a florist's favorite..... | <b>15¢</b> |
| <b>EASTER BONNET</b> , Min. F. D. Small salmon buff with golden center. Early and profuse. Tall bush.....                                            | <b>25c</b> |
| <b>ELIZABETH PAPE</b> , St.Cact., Rosy salmon pink, light tips.....                                                                                  | <b>25¢</b> |
| <b>ESKIMO BELLE</b> , F. D., White, small blooms, profuse.....                                                                                       | <b>30c</b> |
| <b>FAIRY</b> , Min. I.D., Salmon pink, florets attractively curled.....                                                                              | <b>20¢</b> |
| <b>FIRST LOVE</b> , (New) I. D., 5" blooms of true pink with bright yellow base and stripes. Narrow gracefully curled florets ..                     | <b>50c</b> |



### A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT

SANTA CRUZ, CAL., JAN. 20, 1947—"Well its needless to say I like your Dahlias, for here I am again. I use them for cut flowers in my shop, and everyone raves over my collection. I have about 75 varieties of Miniatures and Pompons, and last year they were a beautiful sight."—Mrs. O. E. S.

### WELL SATISFIED

MILWAUKEE, WIS., FEB. 17, 1947—"The roots I received from you last year certainly did produce some wonderful Dahlias. I am well satisfied with your stock."—G. J. M.

## MINIATURE DAHLIAS

|                                                                                                                     |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>GOLDEN SUNSHINE</b> , Min. St. Cact. Pink, with bright gold center. Very profuse. Large bloom and tall bush..... | <b>25c</b> |
| <b>LITTLE NEMO</b> , Min. F. D. Scarlet, more or less tipped white. Narrow folded florets.....                      | <b>20c</b> |
| <b>LITTLE PAL</b> , Min. F.D., Small orange and white, good stems, low bush. ....                                   | <b>15¢</b> |
| <b>LITTLE SNOW QUEEN</b> , Min. S. C. Pure white, almost a Straight Cactus.....                                     | <b>25c</b> |
| <b>MARJORIE EMBERSON</b> , S.C., Glowing rose pink. Low bush. Early. ....                                           | <b>25¢</b> |
| <b>MAUVEEN</b> , St.Cact., Light lavender. Low bush. Early and profuse. ....                                        | <b>25¢</b> |
| <b>ORCHID LADY</b> , F.D., Light lavender or orchid.....                                                            | <b>25¢</b> |
| <b>PINCUSHION</b> , Min. Ball. Brick red.....                                                                       | <b>15c</b> |
| <b>RED SAIL</b> , St.Cact., Brick red. Very early and profuse. Tall....                                             | <b>20¢</b> |
| <b>RUBY RING</b> , Min. F.D., Dark Red, profuse.....                                                                | <b>25¢</b> |
| <b>SNOWBALL</b> . Ball. Creamy white. Tall bush.....                                                                | <b>20c</b> |
| <b>SOUTH SEAS</b> , I.D., Orange, shading to peach pink.....                                                        | <b>20¢</b> |
| <b>STOPLIGHT</b> . Min. F.D., Small dusky red. Profuse, tall bush....                                               | <b>25¢</b> |
| <b>VERITY WADSWORTH</b> , Min. F. D. Soft bright yellow. Tall bush .....                                            | <b>30c</b> |

### A GARDEN OF NEW VARIETIES THIS FALL FROM SEEDS

More and more of our customers are experiencing the fascination of originating their own varieties of Dahlias by planting our seeds. The Dahlia does not come true to name from seeds, this is the way new varieties are produced. It is truly interesting to watch the new blooms unfold from a planting of Dahlia seeds, and many times a distinct worth-while new variety will be obtained, which may be named by the grower. We offer three types of seed, Large, Miniature and Pompon, at prices indicated. These will usually produce Dahlias the same types as the seeds, but of a wide range of color combinations. While these seeds are tested for high viability, no guarantee can be given for them. Full directions for planting, etc., printed on each package.

### DAHLIA SEEDS

|                                                                          |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Pompon or Miniature Dahlia Seeds</b> per packet of over 25 seeds..... | <b>25c</b> |
| <b>Large Dahlia Seeds</b> per packet of over 25 seeds.....               | <b>50c</b> |

### ENJOYMENT FROM SEEDLINGS

**BELLFLOWER, CAL., JULY 30, 1947**—"Just a line to tell you about my Dahlias from a packet of your seeds. They are large and deep, and no two alike. I shall enjoy them very much. I have 15 plants." Miss A. E. E.

### WONDERFUL SUCCESS IN ILLINOIS

**GREENUP, ILL., MARCH 24, 1947**—We do have wonderful success with the bulbs we get from you. They seem to grow exceptionally well here in Illinois."—Mrs. C. H.

### THE BEST ADVERTISEMENT

**TYLER, TEXAS, JAN. 28, 1947**—"Have talked your Dahlias, price, quality, etc., as well as exhibited what I have grown from your Farms for 9 years—hence the new customers. 'A satisfied customer, the best advertisement one can have.'—Mrs. G. E. R.

**"The Highest Quality Dahlia Roots Obtainable"**

## POMPON DAHLIAS

Pompons, per root.....15¢

**AIMEE**, Small orange, shaded apricot.

**ALICE ROCKWOOD**, Old rose, large blooms, tall.

**ALLBRIGHT**, Large yellow, heavily tipped crimson

**ALLEN H.**, Light pink, flushed cream.

**AMBER QUEEN**, Light orange, or amber.

**ATOM**, Small orange

**BANTAM**, Bright light scarlet, tall bush

**BARBARA**, Light lavender pink with white center. Very regular, with dark foliage. Tall bush.

**BLUE DOT**, Deep lavender, extra good stems.

**BRUNETTE**, Deep red

**CELESTIA**, Pure white, with exceptionally good stems.

**CHICKIE**, Old rose. Very small, tall bush.

**CLEO**, Orange, shading deeper at tips.

**COQUETTE**, (new) Rich creamy yellow base, shading to bright scarlet with an occasional white floret. Variegated

**CORAL GLOW**, Old rose, shaded old gold.

**DEE DEE**, Light lavender

**EDITH MUELLER**, yellow, tipped carmine.

**ELVINA**, Scarlet and orange, more or less variegated.

**EUNICE**, light lavender and white. Tall bush.

**EUREKA**, Light orange, tipped scarlet, some white florets.

**FLAME**, Deep red, medium bush.

**GEO. IRELAND**, Light purple. Small.

**GERTRUDE**, Oriental red. Low bush.

**GOLDIE**, deep yellow. Large.

**HAZEL DELL**, Clear pink, edged cerise.

**HELEN ANITA**, Lilac with white central florets.

**HELEN LAMBERT**, Large deep yellow, double florets

**IOLANTHE**, Salmon scarlet. Large, Tall bush.

**JOE FETTE**, White

**JOSEPHINE**, Purple, low bush.

**LEMON DROP**, Light yellow. Small.

**LETA**, Large bright red

**LITTLE DAVID**, Russet orange, nearly red.

**MARY MUNNS**, Large light purple

**MORNING MIST**, Light lavender pink, shaded white. Low bush.

**NERISSA**, Small bright pink

**PEGGY ANN**, Yellow, shaded brownish red. Tall.

**SAN TOY**, White, heavily tipped carmine. Large.

**SNOW FLAKES**, Large white.

**SPECKLES**, Deep red and white, variegated.

**TAKAS PURPLE**, Violet purple. Tall bush.

**TAKAS YELLOW**, Bright deep yellow.

**TIMID**, Bright red. Low bush.

**TOM THUMB**, Light red, very small.

**TOTO**, Deep maroon, large. Tall.

**TONY**, Deep yellow. Bushy plant.

**VANIRA**, Bright pale yellow, lightly tipped carmine.

**YELLOW GEM**, Canary yellow.

### A HARVEST OF BEAUTY

**OAKLAND, 11, CAL., JAN. 22, 1947**—"The Dahlia tubers bought from you over several years have yielded such a harvest of beauty that they have indeed, been a 'Joy Forever' and it has been a great satisfaction to be able to recommend your Dahlia stock to numerous friends"—Mrs. G. L. S.

### ATTRACTED LOTS OF ATTENTION

**MITCHELL, S. DAK., JAN. 27, 1947**—"We had very fine Dahlias from your bulbs last year. They attracted a lot of attention because Dahlias are not so plentiful here."—J. J.

## DAHLIA CULTURE

For the healthy growth and the lovely blooms your Dahlia planting should be expected to produce, just a few simple requirements are demanded. These are easy to understand and follow when we consider the manner in which the Dahlia plant grows.

The root division which we plant has an eye near or on the part of the stalk which forms the top of the root. This eye contains the really important part of the entire root, and from it a stalk and feed roots grow to form the Dahlia plant. The rest of the root is merely a dinner basket to supply the necessary nourishment for starting the new plant. As soon as the feed roots, very fine at first, reach the point where they start to supply enough plant food to enable the newly-formed leaves above ground to begin work, the original root has performed its purpose, and may as well be disregarded. In proof of this, the root you plant may be cut in half or a still smaller portion be planted with a resultant vigorous plant, providing the conditions of soil and moisture, etc., are made right.

Thus the new plant needs nothing in the way of fertilizer or irrigation until the new feed roots are established. And the more numerous and faster-growing these feed roots, the stronger the plant and the better crop of roots for the next year. Any fertilizer should for this reason, not be placed in the hole in which the root is planted, but spread over the entire Dahlia plot, as the new roots will cover in most cases the entire space allotted to your Dahlias.

Some of these new roots will thicken and begin to store up starch and other food elements, forming the new crop of storage roots. It is when these are growing and the buds on the plant are beginning to open that plenty of plant food and water are necessary. It is known that one bloom in its formation requires many times the water and food that is needed for the foliage and stalk growth.

It is clear anything which tends to interfere with the growth of these new feed roots will stunt the growth of the plant, so an over-supply of water at the start, or the presence of rotting vegetation or manure, anything which will cause these roots to rot before they reach a healthy growth, is to be avoided. Plenty of room is needed for root development and space between plants should be enough for good ventilation to avoid mildew of the foliage.

With an understanding of these requirements, we can plan the best way to plant and care for the Dahlias.

The soil should be loose and well drained. Spading deeply as soon as the ground can be worked in the spring is a necessary part of preparation. On heavy clay soil some sort of humus should be worked in, and some sand or fine coal ashes. If new clay, a dressing of agricultural lime raked in the surface after spading will be of advantage. If the ground has been planted to a root crop the year before an application of bone meal and potash should be made, and this worked into the surface before planting. About 5 pounds of bone meal and 1 pound of Muriate or Sulphate of Potash to every 10 plants.

When the soil has warmed up nicely, and not until then, is the time to plant. DO NOT PLANT A DAHLIA ROOT IN COLD, WET GROUND, and expect anything but failure. Some varieties may pull through, but nothing is gained by planting too early. A hole about 5 inches deep in heavy soil, to as deep as 8 inches in light sandy soil, is dug for each root, and allow at least 3 feet each way between holes. This for the large varieties. The Pompons may be spaced closer, also the miniatures for mass effects. A stake should be driven close to the hole and the root laid therein with the eye or sprout facing up, and toward the stake. The root should be covered about two inches, and the hole gradually filled in as the plant grows. It may be tied to the stake with soft twine or rag to avoid cutting the stalk.

For a bushy plant with numerous blooms the plant may be pinched out after the 3rd set of leaves forms. This will force the buds at the base of the plant to develop and the plant will spread out. For large blooms, pinch out the buds on each branch down to the base buds leaving only one bud to a stalk. This

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allows long stems for cutting or exhibition. As Pompons and Miniatures are somewhat valued in inverse ratio to their size none of these should be disbudded, but the young plant may be pinched out to make more blooms.

There are a few insect pests which may infect your Dahlias depending on your locality. Aphids or other sucking insects, or leaf hoppers or other chewing insects. There are a number of good sprays and dusts on the market, including the new DDT which may be used according to directions on the package. Your local feed store or hardware dealer will help you select whichever is indicated by your local conditions.

The ground around the Dahlia plants should be kept in a loose condition by frequent cultivation, deep at first and then shallower as the plant grows and the feed roots spread out, and near the surface. If your summer is very hot, a mulch between the Dahlias of grass clippings, or other material, will help keep the ground cool and avoid overheating the roots. During extreme heat it is advisable to pick off the buds and not allow blossoms to form, thus saving any possible dangerous wilting of the plant.

When watering, after the buds have started to open, and not until then, it is better to give the ground a thorough soaking once a week or every ten days, than to sprinkle the surface every day. The moisture should reach down about a foot to be of the most value.

Dahlia blooms should be cut either early in the morning before the sun starts to dry them out, or late in the evening. The best method of cutting for long keeping blooms, is to carry a bucket of cold water into the garden and plunge the stem of the Dahlia into it as soon as it is cut from the bush. A knife should be used instead of scissors, as the object is to not press the stem shut, but rather leave it so that it will absorb water readily for the bloom. The cut flowers should then be placed in the cold water container, in a cool dark place, and away from any drafts, for several hours, or if cut in the evening, over night. After that they are ready for placing in your vases or other containers for display, and will keep much longer than if any other method of preparation is used. Too much foliage left on the stem will greatly lessen the keeping quality of the bloom.

After the first killing frost the Dahlia clumps should be dug and stored for the winter. If the sections where there is no frost, or where it comes very late in the year, the plants may be cut down any time and after allowing a few days for the sap to go down into the roots, the clumps may be dug and cared for the same as if they had been killed by frost. It is well to dig the dirt away from the clump and cut down with the spade all around it rather deep before lifting it out. This will cut the feed roots which may extend out as far as two feet from the stalk, and which might break some of the roots from the stalk if not cut. Any roots which are broken at the neck will probably not be any good the following spring.

The clump may be allowed to stand for a while to dry out the dirt, which may then be shaken off gently. Or a gentle stream of water may be used to wash the clumps. The stalk should then be cut off close to the clump, and it is then ready to be divided or stored.

A cool not too dry cellar is the best place for root storage, being sure it is frost proof. It does not need much below freezing to ruin Dahlia roots. Also, dry warm air will cause the roots to dry out and shrivel up, so that most of them will not grow in the spring.

In dividing the clumps, all that is necessary is to have an eye for each root saved, and these eyes are plainly visible at the time of digging, if one wishes to divide them then. This will do away with the possibility of stem rot, which sometimes spoils the entire clumps. Cut surfaces may be dusted or dipped in powdered lime or sulphur and the roots packed in boxes of fine sawdust, or even dry dirt. The name of the variety may be written on the root with an indelible pencil, moistening the surface so the writing will be permanent. This avoids the possibility of lost tags and mixed-up varieties.

Any special problems not covered will be gladly considered on request, and all available information thereto will be given.